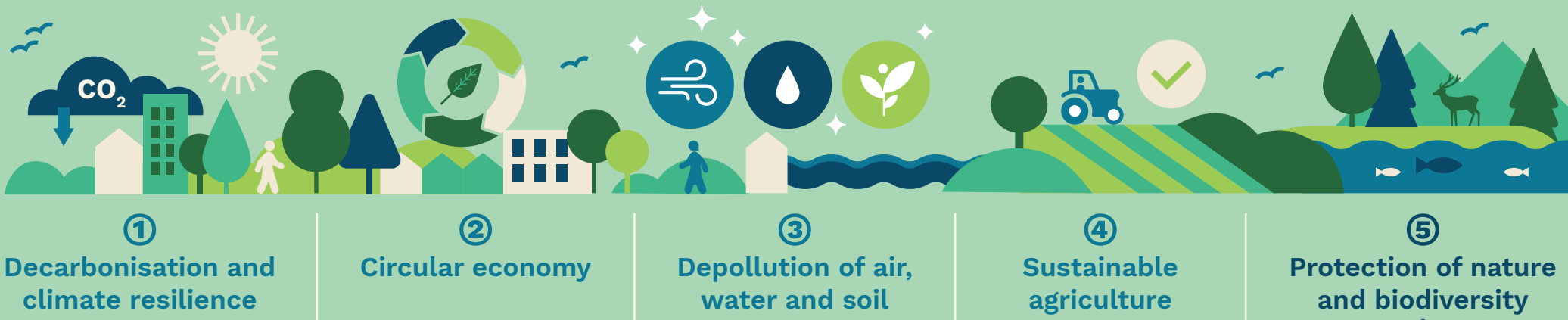


Green Agenda for the Western Balkans - Protection of nature and biodiversity

What is it and why it matters?

The Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB) is the region's pathway to protecting nature while advancing sustainable development. Fully aligned with the EU Green Deal, it commits Western Balkan economies to action across five pillars:



Pillar 5: Protection of nature and biodiversity

Core components

-  Expand protected area network and improve management effectiveness, including through the [IUCN Green List](#)
-  Restore degraded land, rivers, forests and marine ecosystems
-  Align policies with the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and the [Nature Restoration Law](#)
-  Enhance regional ecological connectivity through protected areas and green infrastructure, aligned with the Natura 2000 network
-  Promote Nature-based Solutions to strengthen climate adaptation, mitigation and disaster-risk reduction for people and biodiversity
-  Monitor results using harmonised data and indicators to support accountability and evidence-based decision-making

Working towards

-  30% of land, waters and seas effectively conserved (Target 3*)
-  Improved conservation status of endangered species (Target 4*)
-  30% of degraded ecosystems restored (Target 2*)
-  Enhanced ecosystem connectivity
-  Transparent and effective governance of natural resources
-  Increased resilience of ecosystems and improved climate adaptation response of local communities (Target 8*)
-  Nature integrated across economic planning, infrastructure, energy, agriculture and tourism
-  Strengthened regional cooperation on nature conservation and ecosystem management

* 2030 Targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Who does what?

[IUCN](#) coordinates **Pillar 5 of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB)** and hosts the Secretariat of the **Biodiversity Task Force for the Western Balkans (BDTF WB)**, a key regional platform for cooperation on nature conservation. The Task Force helps shape regional biodiversity policy, strengthens the Western Balkans' collective voice on nature

conservation, and supports alignment with EU standards and global commitments. Its work directly contributes to the implementation of the Pillar 5, ensuring that regional efforts on nature and biodiversity are coordinated, effective, and aligned with broader Green Agenda and relevant global objectives.